

Imposition of Ashes

Dear Members & Friends,

As we are in the midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic, we will not be having an in-person worship service or Imposition of Ashes at the church building this year on Ash Wednesday. This gives us the opportunity to provide you with additional choices this year for Ash Wednesday, and allow you to participate in the Imposition of Ashes at a time of day that works well for you.

You can find a more detailed explanation about the meaning and use of the ashes in the evening Ash Wednesday bulletin and online on our website.

Option #1

This bulletin is to provide you the opportunity to share in the Imposition of Ashes in your own home. This can be done at any time (morning, afternoon, or evening) during Ash Wednesday, enabling you to wear your ashes for as much of the day as you would like. This will guide you through the Confession, Abasement, and Imposition.

You can also follow along using the Imposition of Ashes video found on our website under the "Recent & Upcoming Events" tab: www.sprucc.org/news-a-events/recent-a-upcoming-events.html#ImpositionAshes

Option #2

During the middle hymn of our evening [Ash Wednesday](#) worship service (6:30pm live stream, phone stream, or Zoom), there will be a time for you to share in the Imposition of Ashes from your home.

May the next 40 days of your Lenten journey be spiritually meaningful, centering, and renewing for you.

Remember, you are dust, and to dust you shall return. By the grace of God, through baptism, repentance, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are granted new and eternal life.

In Christ,
Pastor Ben



Ash Wednesday

At Home Imposition of Ashes



Wednesday, February 17, 2021

In Your Home

and one in Spirit with the household of faith of

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

301 West Penn Avenue; Robesonia, PA 19551

610-621-5770 -- office@sprucc.org

www.sprucc.org

Order for Imposition of Ashes

CALL TO CONFESSION

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, study, and works of love help us return to that love. We therefore, recommit ourselves to love God and neighbor by confessing our sins and by asking God for strength and perseverance in our spiritual disciplines during Lent.

CONFESSION OF SIN *(adapted from the E&R Hymnal)*

Almighty God, most merciful Heavenly Father: I a poor sinner, acknowledge and confess my many sins, which I from time to time have committed, by my thoughts, words, and actions and inactions, against your Divine Majesty and against my neighbors, to whom you have called upon me to love. I do earnestly repent, and am heartily sorry for these my sins; the remembrance of them grieves me. I have no other comfort or hope than your grace, O God, and the previous merits of Jesus Christ, which abounds above my guilt and shame. Longing after this grace, I confess: Lord, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and I am no longer worthy to be called your child. Grant me your pardon and peace, and strengthen me to lead a new and righteous life, by the power of your Holy Spirit, through my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

{Please note that palm ashes are extremely acidic and may result in a rash for those with sensitive skin.

*We do **not** recommend infants receiving ashes.*

You may wish to mix the ash with olive oil, or you may use it plain}

WORDS OF ABASEMENT

{Words of abasement, are words that reprimand, berate, chide, or scold us for our sins, and remind us (from the book of Genesis)

that we were created from dust,

and our mortal bodies will one day return to dust.

You may say these words to yourself, perhaps in front of a mirror, or better yet, if someone else in your household is willing to do so, have someone else say these words to you}.

While making the sign of the cross on the forehead or back of the hand, say the following:

**Remember you are dust,
and to dust, you shall return.**

PRAYER FOR MERCY "Kyrie"

Lord, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts
as we forgive our debtors,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(adapted from the E&R Hymnal)*

Hear now the comforting assurance of the grace of God, promised in the Gospel to all who repent and believe: As I live says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their way and live. God so loved the world that he gave us his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Wherefore, beloved, those who have truly turned to God with full-hearted repentance and sincere faith, may assuredly believe that our sins are forgiven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BENEDICTION *(adapted from the E&R Hymnal)*

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with us all. Shalom; go in peace. Amen.

*The Hymnal of the Evangelical and Reformed Church. (1941, 1985). New York: United Church Press.